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## From Director's Desk

For all students the most crucial period of their academic year an the months they prepare intensively and write the final examinations. February to April are those months in India where all our efforts are tested in the fire to see how serious we were in our pursuit of the goals we had set at the beginning of the year. For Snehagram this year was special as 28 of our students were writing Board exams and we got into the mood of serious preparations from February. It was heartening to see how each student were studying and preparing hard to do well in their exams that would prove critical in their future building.

This period also brings in the anticipation of summer holidays where students are eagerly waiting to be with their families and relatives, to reconnect with their roots and cherish the childhood memories and delicacies they were missing for a long time. This issue of Snehavaani thus carries the intensity of examination times and the excitement of summer holidays. Happy Reading and thanks for being part of our journey.

## Finishing the seemingly insurmountable Delhi 10k Marathon



Interaction With Sachin

***"We kick started the run with pretty smiles on our faces"***



Start of the Run

Participating in the Delhi 10k Marathon was a great opportunity for me and my friends. On our journey to Delhi, we were accompanied by Fr. Mathew and Mr. Elvis Joseph, our coach. On one hand, I was glad and grateful to God for having bestowed upon me the privilege of participating in such events while on the other hand, a bit dejected for the ones who never got a chance.

March 3rd was our run and the chief guest for the same was the legendary "Sachin Tendulkar". We kick started the run with pretty smiles on our faces and strong determination in our heart to complete it. Feeling of exhaustion started taking its grip on me as I paced forward towards the finish line but I kept going on. Pain and tiredness started multiplying after each step and by the end of 8 km, I was totally exhausted but deep inside I knew I couldn't give up and thus, with iron

will in my heart I successfully completed the run in 58 minutes which happened to be one of the best timings of mine. My happiness knew no bounds when I got to personally interact with Sachin Tendulkar and also get motivated by his inspiring words.

Next day, we were invited to a meeting which was organized by NACO and UNAIDS. Being able to share about our life experiences in front of so many people was a proud feeling for me.

**By: Gowthami**



## My Experience of Snehagram Run

We started our "Champion in Me" running fitness club in the month of June 2017. With guidance of Elvis Joseph, our coach, running captains were selected and the same people lead the running program at Snehagram. We aimed at injury-free and healthy fitness campaign and in the spirit of the same, we

learnt a variety of stretching and strengthening exercises with the help of Dr. Gladson.

The day before the run we all were very excited about the run and the excitement reached new heights in the last moments before we launched the Snehagram run on





Joy of Running

March 3rd. We had a warm up session scheduled for 5:45 a.m., followed by the run at 6 o' clock. The 10k run was done by senior students while juniors ran 5k run. We all felt extremely happy because we received support from almost everyone around. After the race, we proceeded for a sumptuous breakfast and sharing of our fresh memorable experiences.

By: Priyanka S



***“Having learnt the real life lessons and realizing the shortcomings ”***

### Launching The Dairy Project

It had been a long time since we all were planning to have our own dairy farm, being able to enjoy its freshness and make it as an alternative source of Income. Thanks to Mr. Gerald Manoharan who showed his interest in our lives and extended his help and support for the dairy project. Having collaborated with us for years, he was determined to turn our dreams to reality by 2016. Inadequate water supply, insufficient fodder for the cattle and financial constraints became impediments to the execution of the plan.

Mr. Gerry decided to take eight of us from Snehagram for professional training at Hesaragatta dairy farm. Over there, we learnt about modern dairy farming and also got certificates of dairy farming ap-

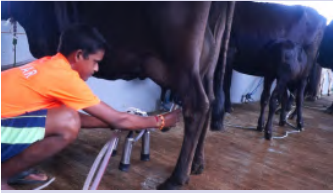
proved by government of India for having successfully completed the course.

Having seen us obtained good knowledge about dairy farming, Fr. Mathew and Mr. Gerry went to a dairy farm in Karur and brought 8 cows to Snehagram dairy farm on 17<sup>th</sup> April. I was ecstatic to see the cows and see my dreams come to life.

We are very grateful to Gerry sir for his continuous support in executing this project while supporting students to build their lives. Being given the responsibility to take care of the cows along with Manesh, Vijay and Mr. Murgan, I feel happy for the same. At present, we have 10 cows, 6 calves which give about



Gir Variety cows



**Milking by Machine**

***"Tips on  
keeping  
oneself fit***



85-88 liters per day and the same is sold to Thirumala dairy. My experience of learning about dairy farming had been an insightful one and have in learning numerous things about dairy farming. I really want to become the manager of the firm and I dream of having 20 cows in the Snehagram farm. Web will officially inaugurate the farm on our 5th anniversary on July 21st 2018. The farm will be named Snehadhara Dairy Farm. Wish every good thing happen to this project with God's grace.

By: Lakshmikanth Reddy

### **The Summer Camp Experience**

My friends and I were part of summer camp at Gulbarga, Bijapur and Mysore, acting as facilitators. Also, tips on keeping oneself fit and healthy were also provided.

This time, it being my second experi-



ence of being part of the summer camp, I could notice the difference from the last time, especially due to the increased focus given on preparing adolescents for facing challenges, related to their higher study, with confidence by imparting career related knowledge.

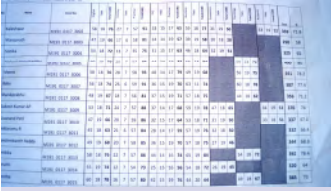
I could see lot of children of my age over there and I found that it was great to be in company of theirs. We had a happy time getting to know each other and sharing our real life experiences. It felt as if our happiness multiplied and difficulties started to fade away while we parted away with a determination to make ourselves stronger and with the hope of happier times ahead.

**By: Kalesh**



**Adolescents Camp**





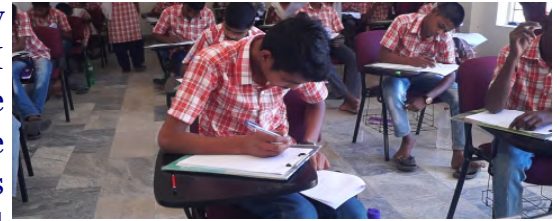
Marks Sheet

***“I was hoping to get at least passing marks but when I found”***

## Preparations for Board Examinations

Even after having worked diligently for my 10<sup>th</sup> standard examinations, I was not much confident of passing the examination with decent results due to my fear of examinations. My exams began in early March and by the end of it, my expectations had dropped from 70% to below 60% after having looked back on my performance.

Finally, the day of results came and it brought along with it loads of nervousness and anxiety. I was just hoping to get at least passing marks but when I found out that I aced my exams with 62%, I was on cloud nine. I thanked everyone who has been behind my



success and promised myself to prepare for the exams right from the beginning and value the importance of time.

By: Deepa

***I believe “Success always comes through hard work”***

## Poultry Project

I took poultry farming as my vocational training course. I had no idea of poultry farming. Before we started anything I collected information through various means, few of the information were very pleasing like, it is easy to rear chickens, it brings high profit and work load is very less. Similarly some of the information which I collected was very threatening and brought fear to get into poultry business, after getting all the information. As planned, we brought 750 chicks in the beginning we wanted to learn the method and the process in growing broiler chickens. We began poultry farming as instructions given by the supervisor.



1500 Chickens

We sold the first batch and got little profit but I was filled with lots of learning. After all the learning we started the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch. The second batch was much better with proper guidance from the supervisors and I learned lot of new medicines and few marketing techniques. We gained little profit in the second batch. After this I am now quite experienced and I have confidence. I am planning to make poultry as my side business, so that it can earn some money, hoping for good income and learning.

By Babu

## Spandan Program

Project Spandan is an initiative taken by the Christ University with Sneha-program. Spandan program aims at guiding us in our education and



CSA Group

***“A run has never returned me exactly the same. I go, I grow”***



understand the different concepts related to our subjects. More than the studies, we student had lots of interactions on various topics which helped us to understand what’s happening outside our campus. Different department took turns to support us in the studies which helped us to build special interest in a particular filed. Students of Christ University motivated and encouraged me to study and keep going successfully in life.

developing our social skills. I had great opportunity to learn and explore many new things in the educational field. During our preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> examinations we were helped by the students of Christ University to

**By: Shekar**

## TCS Run

May 27<sup>th</sup> marked the first 10k Marathon of my life for which I had been practicing since last one month. It was a great experience to see the huge Bangalore stadium in real. I enjoyed running together with other people with our cheerful faces and lovely smiles. Though for once, the race seemed as if it will never end but with gleaming smiles on our faces, we kept going. As I approached nearer to the finish line, I started pushing harder and ultimately finished the race in 48 minutes. TCS Run was such a great experience and I would cherish its memories going forward.



TCS



***“I Run for my Health and it is my Passion”***

**By Manesh**



## Volunteer's Feedback

I did not know how to even begin to describe the wonderful experience I had at Snehagram. The gardens and facilities were beautiful and everything was very well maintained, but the heart of this incredible place is truly the people that inhabit it. We were so warmly welcomed and made to feel right at home here, despite it being our first time in India (and half the way around the world )! All the staff took us under their wings, and mentored us in every respect of our work. Children are so kind and open-hearted. They welcomed us fully into their sports and activities and taught us more than I could say. On leaving Snehagram, I believe I speak for both myself and Susan when I say that we of course met the objectives of our educational experiences, but that we leave feeling inspired and deeply moved by the people we met here. I feel honored to have been a part of this place for 3 weeks.

**By Ingrid Barajar**

## Visitor's Feedback

*It's been a blessing these two days here at Snehagram. To see the institute makes such a huge impact in this children's lives is beyond extraordinary. I wish to Come back to keep in touch with Snehagram.*

**By Ranish**

***Runners High***

**Ingrid and Susan**

*"All the staff took us under their wings, "*





## **Credits**

**Administration : Fr joy**  
**Planning : Snehavaani committee**  
**Photos : Vinay Kumar**  
**Writings : Snehagram students**  
**Editor : Jaiveer Singh Shekhawat**  
**Designing : Kaleshwar**

